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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA**

In the matter of

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES
CREATED BY CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE (COVID-19)

**MISCELLANEOUS
GENERAL ORDER 20-6**

This General Order is being issued in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the well-documented concerns surrounding this virus. The President of the United States has declared a public health emergency in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the Governor of the State of Alaska has declared a public health emergency throughout the state. In order to protect public health through the aim of reducing the size of public gatherings, as well as balancing the fair administration of justice, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that unless a separate effective date is otherwise indicated in this order, effective Monday, March 16, 2020:

1. All civil and criminal jury trials scheduled to commence on or before April 13, 2020, are continued pending further order of the Court. The Court may issue other orders concerning future continuances as necessary and appropriate. Trials that have already begun shall be completed.
2. All trial-specific deadlines in criminal cases scheduled to begin before April 13, 2020, are continued pending further order of the Court. Individual judges may continue trial-specific deadlines in civil cases at their discretion.
3. Individual judges presiding over criminal proceedings may take such actions

1 consistent with this order as may be lawful and appropriate to ensure the fairness of
2 the proceedings and preserve the rights of the parties.

3 4. Due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the
4 effect of the public health recommendations on the availability of counsel and Court
5 staff to be present in the courtroom, the time period of the continuances
6 implemented by this General Order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act.
7 The Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the
8 continuances outweigh the best interests of the public and any defendant's right to
9 a speedy trial, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A). Any motion by a criminal
10 defendant seeking an exception to this order in order to exercise that right should be
11 directed to the District Judge assigned to the matter. Absent further order of the
12 Court, the period of the exclusion shall be from March 16, 2020, through April 13,
13 2020.

14 5. Individual judges may continue to hold hearings, conferences, and bench trials in
15 the exercise of their discretion, consistent with this order.

16 6. All non-case related activities scheduled in the James M. Fitzgerald U.S.
17 Courthouse in Anchorage, and U.S. Courthouses in Fairbanks and Juneau, are
18 canceled until further notice. This includes naturalization ceremonies, attorney
19 admission ceremonies, mock trials, CLE events, school tours, and all other non-case
20 related gatherings.

21 7. The Clerk's Office, U.S. Probation, U.S. Pretrial Services and all other Court
22 services shall remain open pending further order of the Court.

23 DATED this 16th day of March, 2020.

24
25 /s/ Timothy M. Burgess
26 Timothy M. Burgess
27 Chief United States District Judge
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